

Youth Services Board Report September 2024

In the month of August, we usually take a few weeks off from storytime and programming to give youth services staff a chance to regroup after a busy summer. This gives staff time to prep and plan for fall programs. Storytimes picked back up the first week of September. While the gradeschool and teen programs picked back up the last two weeks of August.

The play area, scavenger hunts, and weekly crafts continued for the whole month of August. This month's play area theme was a pizza shop. We had over 900 visitors in the play area, which made for a slightly less busy time than the month before, which had over 1200 visitors. The Rome City branch saw 100 visitors to their play area.

The first Saturday in August was the annual Kid City event at the fairgrounds. Each year we work with the other area Noble County libraries to host a booth at this event. This year we went with a western theme and had inflatable ax throwing, horse races, cactus crafts and a toss game. We had over 400 visitors to our booth. It's always a fun and busy day.

Most of the youth services staff were able to attend a youth service round table that was held at the Angola Public Library. This has been a great group to gather with to share ideas and resources. The next meeting will be held at the Garrett Public Library in November. My goal is to have as many of our youth services staff attend as possible.

Along with the adult services department we hosted the first All Ages Programming round table. The goal of this round table is for programmers to share all ages programming ideas. The first meeting was well attended, and the next meeting will be held at the Peabody Public Library in November.

At the end of the month the Islamic school had an unexpected problem with their school's air conditioning. So, they reserved rooms from the library and held classes here. Their principal asked if I was able to host a storytime for their k-3 graders about Labor Day. They were an engaged group, and it was a lot of fun to sit down and read with them. I heard many students express their delight with the library and remark that they wanted to come back.

We've also used this month to take a closer look at the spine labels of the youth graphic novel and manga collections. We noticed that the collections were shelved by the book title or series name. This meant that authors with multiple books were separated on the shelf. This shelf order was also different from how the fiction materials are shelved. To make it easier for patrons to go back and forth between collections we decided to update the spine labels. The updated spine labels will have the books shelved by author, series name and book/volume number. The tech services department has been making quick work of this project. Once the Kendallville materials are updated, we'll move on to updating the items at Rome City.

Sincerely,
Mary Graber



Pizza Pockets: Rome City



Kid City with Noble County Librarians